

MINUTES OF THE SHERIFFHALES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THE 24TH MAY 2022 AT SHERIFFHALES VILLAGE HALL

Present: Councillors: Mr J Horne (Chairman); Mr Gordon Tonkinson; Mr D Himsworth; Mr Kevin Turley; Clerk – Miss Jennifer Cree, Mrs D Lowe, Mrs A Horne. Mrs M Himsworth, Mrs T Whitehouse and Mr N Jones

Apologies: Councillors Mrs A Robinson and Mr N Pulker.

1. Chairman's welcome and announcements

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public and the Council to the meeting.

2. Community presentations

Mrs Whitehouse – Sheriffhales Village Hall

She reported that she looks after the bookings for the village hall, she took over 5 years ago when the new hall was built. At that time most key officers changed. The hall is built on Church Diocese land, they have a joint affiliation with the School and the Unitary Council.

The School have first use of the hall at the present time during the term time in the week and pay for the times that they use. The church has a 150 hours free usage.

Following Covid things returned to some normality, but the Montessori school has now finished, and they no longer use the hall each morning during term time.

An events / promotions organiser is needed to help promote the facility, the income is breaking even, and the extension should be complete this summer. That can then be booked as a separate entity to the main hall. The next meeting of the Village Hall is tomorrow evening.

The booking system needs to be reviewed to allow daytime use / hiring of the facility, this is being looked at by the Committee with regard to managing the regular users.

Mr N Jones agreed that there is general apathy in the community, there are people that do and people that talk about it. The hall has facility to use a projector to watch sports events, a film club that's active, lighting can be changed to suit requirements. The hall needs to have broadband to watch live tv or sport.

The village hall heating system also needs upgrading to make it efficient, to have the system running via broadband and Broadband would be a cost of approx. £30 per month. Also the system runs on oil due to its rural location and this is a very large cost.

Unitary Councillor Mr K Turley suggested that the Village Hall Committee look at what they need and drives this forward, with costings which can be brought forward to look at funding via grants, match funding, fund raising then the committee can move their ideas forward.

The village hall will look at allocating a seat for a Parish Councillor to stand, if this is acceptable a representative will be put forward.

Mrs Himsworth reported that the Community spirit in Sheriffhales seems to be lost, no Community Jubilee event organised. The Evergreens are undertaking a private Jubilee Event as a public event was not organised.

3. To confirm the Minutes of the Sheriffhales APM held on 13th July 2021.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2021, having been circulated in advance of the current meeting, were approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings at that meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

5. Parish Council Report

Report of the Chairman of the Council – Cllr J Horne.

It has been a challenging year for Sheriffhales Parish Council.

Our Chairman Dr Alan MacWhannell resigned in February for Personal reasons. He served on the Council for many years, and he is truly missed by all. But is still a very active member of the Community.

In February we also sadly lost the Vice Chairman Cllr Nick Edwards, who passed away after a short illness. The Parish Council members and the Community have felt this very sad loss, our thoughts are with his wife Lorraine and his family.

I have only been appointed as Chairman of the Council in the last month, so I hope to fill the shoes of past Chairman well.

Mrs Pippa Hodgetts has completed her bench project with funding from Lightsource, and these look amazing and are a great addition to the Parish which we are all grateful to her for her hard work. An additional bench will shortly be installed at Heath Hill paid for by a private sponsor.

On a happier note the Parish Council has over the past 12 months:-

- Completed the orchard project on the playing field, the trees being planted and watered by the late former Cllr Nick Edwards and his wife Lorraine.
- To enhance the orchard benches funded by the Council and picnic tables have been installed.
- Has undertaken repairs on the play equipment as required.
- Replaced the fence alongside the car park at the village hall.
- Employed a contractor to cut back and weed spray the verge to slow the regrowth from the village to Heath Hill.

The Council has applied for a match funded grant of £1500 from Shropshire Council (total available to spend £3000), for the works within the Parish. Initial thoughts for this money are for the footpath from the village to Heath Hill to be kept clear, to cut back overgrown trees and bushes near junctions around the Parish and if possible, to look at the possibility of clearing blocked trenches. So, watch this space.

We noted sadly at the last Council meeting that the Parish was not having a Community Jubilee event, but the Parish are looking at having another community event over the next year. Such as

a scarecrow festival, Christmas lights or a village fete with any proceeds going to the Chairmans charity for distribution.

The Council does need to attract new Councillors as there are 3 vacancies on the Council and any member of the Parish can put their name forward to become a councillor.

6. Questions arising from the public relevant to the reports or with regards to the parish.

Mr G Tonkinson reported that the 30mph signs need to have the overgrowth cut back as a priority. The Unitary Councillor will report this to Highways.

Unitary Councillor Mr K Turley reported that:-

- The Crackley Bank light change to a 4 way signal, is undergoing a final assessment and hopefully over the next 4 weeks should be changed.
- With regard to Woodcote Quarry, the Planning Committee at Shire Hall are meeting next week, and on the agenda is the application to increase the output of the quarry. He has spoken to the officers and had a site meeting, and has requested that before another application is approved the original S106 needs to be implemented first, i.e. changes in the road structure etc.
- He updated members that the traffic calming scheme that is in place in the centre of the village, it should slow the traffic down, and it was noted that the resident that lives near there has noticed an increase in relation to driver's road rage and ASB behaviour.

7. Close

The Chairman thanked the members of the Parish Council and the public for attending the meeting, if there are any residents that want to join the Council to contact the Chairman or the Clerk. Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.